

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 02437 271550Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03
ACDA-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06
TRSE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 OMB-01 EB-08 /075 W
-----271804Z 013669 /41

R 270915Z APR 77
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3190
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO CINCLANT
USCINCEUR
USLOSACLANT
USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 2437

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: DPC MPOL NATO
SUBJ: MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE RESOURCES

REF: A. USNATO 2374 231216Z APR 77, B. STATE 071624 010124Z
APR 77

1. THERE FOLLOWS IN PARA 3 BELOW THE TEXT OF SYG LUNS' PO/77/67, WHICH URGES DPC PERMREPS TO SEND FORWARD TO MINISTERS (AS PART OF MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE 1977) PRO-POSALS ON RESOURCE ALLOCATION FOR DEFENSE, WHICH WILL (A) REPRESENT A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN REAL TERMS (3 PER CENT MINIMUM), AND (B) RECOGNIZE THAT AN EVEN GREATER EFFORT WILL BE REQUIRED OF MOST COUNTRIES OIF CURRENT ADVERSE TRENDS ARE TO BE REVERSED.
2. COMMENT: THIS TRACKS EXACTLY WITH OUR PROPOSED POSITION (REF A) AND WITH OUT REF B GUIDANCE. END COMMENT.
3. BEGIN TEXT OF PO/77/68:
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PAGE 02 NATO 02437 271550Z

MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE-1977
REFERENCE: DPC/D(77)6(DRAFT) DATED 22ND APRIL, 1977
THE DRAFT MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE FOR DEFENCE PLANNING WHICH THE DEFENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE IN PERMANENT SESSION WILL CONSIDER LATER THIS WEEK HAS LEFT OPEN FOR RESOLUTION THE ISSUE OF WHAT LEVELS OF RESOURCES SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED TO SUPPORT ADDITIONAL DEFENCE EFFORT OVER THE PERIOD UP TO 1984.
2. I AM SURE THAT PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES WILL AGREE THAT THE DEFENCE REVIEW COMMITTEE, WHICH HAS PREPARED THE DRAFT GUIDANCE, WAS RIGHT TO REFER THIS ISSUE TO HIGHER AUTHORITY

RATHER THAN PUT FORWARD A COMPROMISE FORMULA WHICH MIGHT HAVE
OBSURED THE DIFFERENT NATIONAL APPROACHES TO THIS ISSUE WHICH I
REGARD AS OF CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE.

3. MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE 1975 PROPOSED ANNUAL INCREASES IN
RESOURCES IN THE RANGE OF 0-5PERCENT IN REAL TERMS. CLEARLY, AS THE
OUTCOME OF THE 1976 NATO ANNUAL DEFENCE REVIEW HAS SHOWN, THIS
FAILED TO MAKE SUFFICIENT IMPACT ON FORWARD NATIONAL DEFENCE
PLANNING. THERE IS, THEREFORE, GROUND TO BE MADE UP AS A RESULT
OF THE INADEQUATE RESPONSE SO FAR MADE TO THE CURRENT NATO FORCE
GOALS; ADDITIONAL FINANCILA PROVISION WILL BE NEEDED TO COPE WITH
THE CONTINUING REAL COST INCREASES (QUITE APART FROM INFLATION)
WHICH STEM FROM THE GROWING SOPHISTICATION OF MODERN WEAPONS
SYSTEMS NECESSARY TO KEEP IN STEP-AND PREFERABLY AHEAD-OF
TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SOVIET UNION; AND NEW FORCE
PROPOSALS TO BE DRAWN UP BY THE NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES IN
RESPONSE TO DEVELOPMENTS IN THE THREAT IN THE LAST TWO OR THREE
YEARS MAY GIVE RISE TO FURTHER DEMANDS FOR EXTRA RESOURCES.

4. IN MY VIEW, THE GUIDANCE ON RESOURCES TO BE GIVEN BY
MINISTERS WHEN THEY MEET NEXT MONTH IN BRUSSELS WILL BE A MAJOR
TEST OF WHETHER THE ALLIANCE COLLECTIVELY IS READY TO PUT ITSELF
IN A POSITION TO RISE TO THE CHALLENGE POSED BY THE ADVERSE
TRENDS IN THE MILITARY BALANCE TO NATO'S DISADVANTAGE WHICH HAVE
EMERGED SO STARKLY. IT IS, OF COURSE, ALSO VERY IMPORTANT FOR
NATO TO CONTINUE ALL ITS EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE THE MAXIMUM RETURN
IN TERMS OF FORCE CAPABILITIES FROM ANY GIVEN AMOUNT OF RESOURCES
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PAGE 03 NATO 02437 271550Z

FOR DEFENCE AND THE DRAFT MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE CONTAINS POSITIVE
PROPOSALS TO THAT END. BUT THE NEED AS SUCH FOR A NET INJECTION
OF ADDITIONAL REAL RESOURCES FOR DEFENCE, AS DEFENCE MINISTERS
RECOGNISED WHEN THEY MET IN DECEMBER 1976, IS INESCAPABLE.

5. MAY I, THEREFORE, EXPRESS THE STRONG HOPE THAT THE
DPC IN PERMANENT SESSION WILL BE ABLE TO SPEND FORWARD TO
MINISTERS THE DRAFT MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE PROPOSALS ON RESOURCE
ALLOCATION WHICH:

(A) CALL UPON NATIONAL AUTHORITIES TO ADOPT LEVELS OF
DEFENCE SPENDING WHICH WILL REPRESENT A SIGNIFICANT
AND SUSTAINED INCREASE IN REAL TERMS-MY OWN
RECOMMENDATION WOULD BE FOR THE ADOPTION OF AN
ANNUAL RISE OF 3 PERCENT IN REAL TERMS AS THE MINIMUM;
(B) RECOGNISE THAT IN THE CASE OF MOST COUNTRIES AN
EFFORT OF EVEN HIGHER LEVEL WILL BE NEEDED IF A
SERIOUS ATTEMPT IS TO BE MADE TO COUNTER THE CURRENT
ADVERSE TRENDS. END TEXT.STREATOR

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 30-Aug-1999 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NATO02437
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: n/a
Format: TEL
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197704102/baaabdfi.tel
Line Count: 104
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Message ID: 24feb39b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. USNATO 2374 231216Z APR 77, B. STATE 071624 010124Z APR 77
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2667362
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE RESOURCES
TAGS: DPC MPOL NATO
To: STATE SECDEF MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/24feb39b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009